

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2003 LB 165

until rather recently, so when we were in committee and when we were having hearings, we didn't have this. I didn't have it. I didn't know that it existed at that time. So I would have brought up the issues, I would have discussed it earlier had I had that opportunity. I did request a copy of it from NPPD and, after some time, I was given a copy and I appreciate having it. The purpose in raising the issues now is, before the legislation is passed, before we make the decisions, now is the time to ensure that this doesn't become a part of the contract. This is preventative. And you...we can say all day long that, yes, this isn't a signed contract, and it's true, but this is the boilerplate. This already has the names on it. It's already got everything spelled out. And it can be modified, yes, that's true, but if we pass this amendment we have more certainty that this portion of it will be amended or that at least we protect the ratepayers of the state of Nebraska. And at this point, I think it is important because, even though this isn't signed, it's a boilerplate kind of standard agreement that they use with their other operating entities whose plants they take over. And since, according to this agreement, the governing law, the validity, interpretation and performance of the NPPOSA and each of its provisions shall be governed by the laws of the state of Wisconsin, according to page 24, Article XIII, 13.3, I don't know that the Attorney General's Office in Nebraska is all that familiar with Wisconsin law. Perhaps there's an attorney on the floor who could advise me. I don't see any attorneys at their microphone right now who could tell me whether or not we are familiar and accustomed to dealing with Wisconsin law in Nebraska. What kind of a disadvantage does that put our legal representation at when they need to defend anything that might happen with litigation under Wisconsin law, not even Nebraska law that they're familiar with, that they've worked with, that they understand? If we're operating under a system that is not within our jurisdiction that we're indemnifying against any of their negligence and we're operating under another state's law, that seems to me to put the citizens of Nebraska at a greater financial risk and even at a legal disadvantage. And so this amendment, I think, would help to at least minimize that disadvantage, would at least allow us to say that those costs related to prosecuting or defending any claims would not be covered under that indemnification. And I think it's important